

1 October 1974

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : Comments on Draft Memorandum for Systematic Product Review

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1. I gather this issue had its genesis in proposals offered by  during last Thursday's staff meeting. At that time, however, I was attempting to penetrate the security system at the Naval Intelligence Support Center and missed out on the rather lively discussion. The following thoughts, then, may already have been addressed during previous discussions on this subject:

a. I do not believe anyone in the Product Review Division should ever be opposed to reviewing products. I am not, but I am a bit concerned that the method proposed may be too rigidly structured and may focus on "data" that is irrelevant to certain unique subjects under scrutiny.

b. Another concern is the rather vague definition of "national intelligence products." I think we must identify, early on, just what are national products. In this regard, I submit the notion that a product need not be only a publication. Rather, I conceive a product as being any vehicle or art form which transmits evaluated information (briefings, conferences, procedures, etc.).

c. I further believe that the criterion for the data or information collected for this product review should be flexible enough to insure its applicability for the various geographic or functional areas for which we are responsible.

d. If history is any guide, I believe all of this could very well turn out to be wasted effort if we do not at first have a commitment on the part of the NIOs to be responsive to our findings.


2. I apologize for the rather awkward form of this memorandum, but I wanted to get something to you before the deadline.



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